

Notes on "*Marginella*" *spryi*  
(Gastropoda, Marginellidae)

H.E. COOMANS

Zoölogisch Museum, Amsterdam

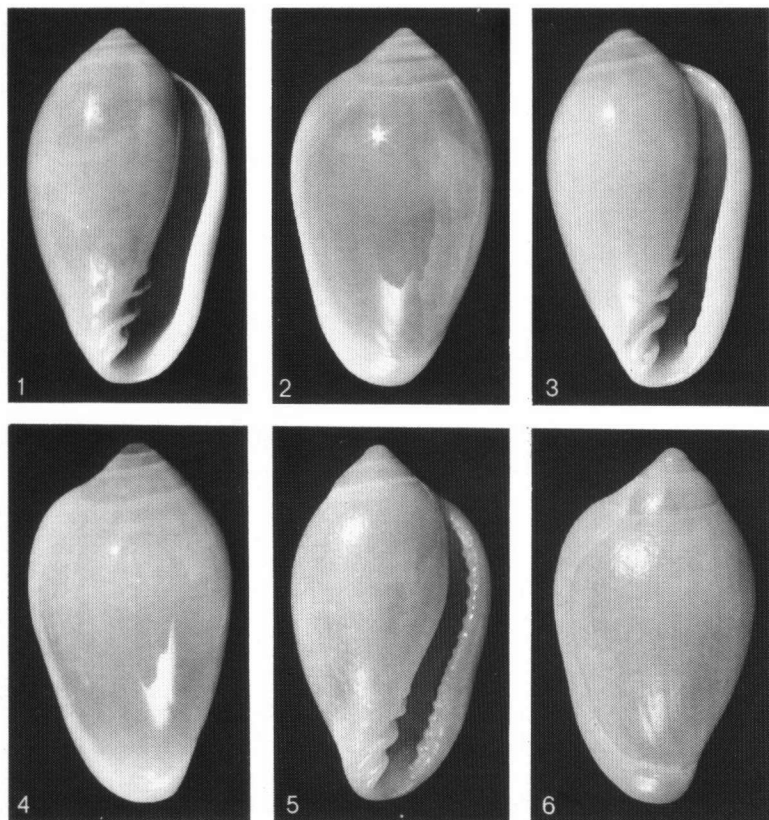
Distribution. — Clover (1974: 215-216, pl. VIII figs. 6-7) described "*Marginella*" *spryi* from Mozambique. More specimens were known to him from Tanzania and S. Kenya. The mollusk collection of the Zoological Museum in Amsterdam also contains some specimens of this species. Two specimens (figs. 1-4) are from Mozambique Bay, live-collected at low tide from under stones by Mr. Fernandes in 1969. We suppose that these shells are from the type locality, since the specimens were donated to the museum by Mr. Clover himself in 1971.

One beach worn specimen (figs. 5-6) is from Bamburi, 4 km north of Mombasa in Kenya; it was collected by E. van Haagen and recently donated to the Zoological Museum by Mr. E.X. Maier. This locality extends the range of *M. spryi* to the north (fig. 7).

The dimensions in mm of these three specimens are:

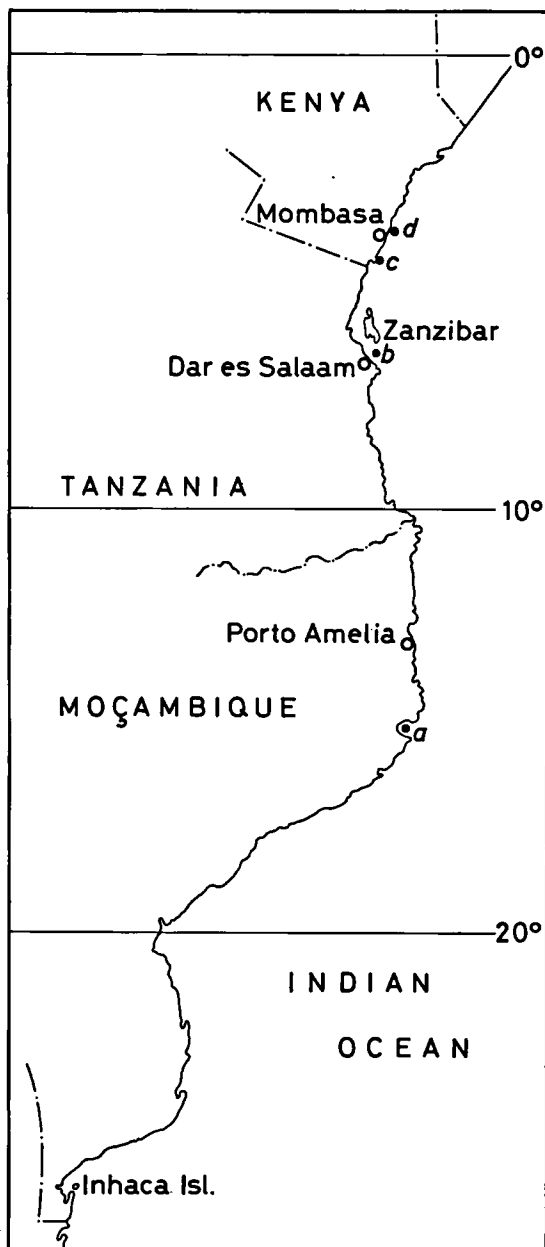
	length	width
Mozambique Bay (figs. 1-2)	8.8	5.0
do. (figs. 3-4)	8.3	4.8
Bamburi, Kenya (figs. 5-6)	8.2	4.7

Denticulation of the outer lip. — Our three specimens agree in all characteristics with the description by Clover. The beach worn speci-



Figs. 1-6. *Prunum spryi* (Clover). 1-2. Mozambique Bay; length 8.8 mm. 3-4 Mozambique Bay; length 8.3 mm. 5-6. Bamburi, Kenya; length 8.2 mm. Photographs L.A. van der Laan.

Fig. 7. Distribution of *Prunum spryi* on the coast of East Africa. a. 150 miles south of Porto Amelia, type locality (= Mozambique Bay, this publication); b. Sinda Island off Dar es Salaam (Clover, 1974: 215); c. Shimoni (Clover, 1974: 215); d. Bamburi (this publication). J. Zaagman del.



men from Kenya has lost its colour, but it shows 17 denticles on the outer lip (fig. 5), which is approximately the same number as present in the holotype (Clover, 1974, pl. VIII fig. 6). However, the specimens from Mozambique Bay do not have the heavy denticles on the inside of the outer lip, notwithstanding the fact that these specimens are fully grown. One specimen (fig. 3) has three weak denticles at the base, whereas the outer lip of the other specimen (fig. 1) is smooth. We must therefore conclude that the outer lip of "*Marginella*" *spryi* in adult specimens may be either smooth or denticulate.

The occurrence of smooth as well as denticulate outer lips is rather peculiar in the Marginellidae. In a number of genera all species have a smooth outer lip: *Austroginella*, *Rivomarginella*, *Hyalina*, *Cystiscus*, *Crithe*, and *Afrivoluta*. In other genera all species have denticulate outer lips: *Closia*, *Canalispira*, *Serrata*, *Persicula*, *Gibberula*, and *Pachybatbron*. Many genera have species with smooth and species with denticulate outer lips: *Marginella* (s.s.), *Glabella*, *Prunum*, *Cryptospira*, *Dentimargo*, *Eratoidea*, *Volvarina*, *Granula*, and *Cypraeolina*. However, the occurrence of both smooth and denticulate specimens in one species, as described here for "*Marginella*" *spryi*, is rather unique in the Marginellidae. Only a few other marginellids are known to have both smooth and slightly denticulate specimens in the adult stage: *Bullata bullata* (Born, 1778) from Brazil, and *Prunum labrosum* (Redfield, 1870) from West Africa.

Systematic position. — When describing "*Marginella*" *spryi*, Clover placed the generic name between quotation marks, indicating that he was not convinced whether this species should be placed in the genus *Marginella* s.s. (type species *Voluta glabella* Linné, 1758). However, we feel that this species shows relationship with the genus *Prunum* Herrmannsen, 1852 (type species *Voluta prunum* Gmelin, 1791). The genus *Prunum* is characterized by small to medium sized species (5-35 mm), oval or egg-shaped shells, low spire, smooth or denticulate outer lip, four folds on the columella of which the two anterior ones are closer together than the two posterior folds, smooth last whorl, sometimes with extra callus around the aperture. Distribution: tropical Eastern Pacific, South-East coast of N.America, West Indies as far as southern Brazil, West and South Africa.

*Prunum spryi* would be the first record of this genus from East Africa.

Compared to the West African faunal province, which is rich in Marginellidae, the marine malacofauna of East Africa is very poor regarding this family. Paes da Franca (1960) does not mention a single

marginellid from Inhaca Island (Mozambique), whereas Spry (1968: 37) only mentioned *Marginella obscura* Reeve (= *Volvarina obscura*) from Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. More to the north, in the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea, the number of marginellid species is slowly increasing. Shopland (1902: 173) mentioned seven species of Marginellidae after ten years of collecting in the neighbourhood of Aden.

#### LITERATURE

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